

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 RSC-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:IJG

APPROVED BY P - EDWARD L. PECK

S/PRS - MR. VEST

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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O 150508Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 225537

TOPOL 42

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS BRIEFINGS - NOVEMBER 14,
1973

STATE

1. PEKING COMMUNIQUE -- NOTING THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAD
RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE AT 8:00 A.M. THIS
MORNING, MR. VEST STATED HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON
IT SINCE HE WAS INFORMED THE SECRETARY HAD PLANNED TO MEET
WITH THE PRESS IN TOKYO TODAY.

2. SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINE OIL EMBARGOS -- VEST STATED
THAT OIL COMPANIES IN THESE COUNTRIES HAD INFORMED US THEY
WOULD BE UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE NAVY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM
ARAB SUPPLIERS OF CRUDE. WHILE HE LEFT DETAILS TO DOD, HE
ADDED HE DID NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS A FACTOR
THE NAVY WOULD BE UNABLE TO MANAGE.

3. PORTUGAL -- VEST STATED THAT THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR
WAS IN THE BUILDING TODAY HAVING BEEN INVITED SOME DAYS AGO
TO REVIEW THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. TO A QUERY ON REPORT-
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ED PORTUGUESE DEMANDS FOR ADDITIONAL US SUPPORT, HE REPLIED

IN GENERAL HE WAS UNAWARE THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAD EMBARKED ON SUCH AN UNDERTAKING.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PORTUGAL RECEIVES ASSISTANCE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS AS A RESULT OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT OF 1971, BUT HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ASKED CONGRESS TO REMOVE FROM THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST PORTUGAL'S USE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

4. SECRETARY'S TRAVELS -- VEST STATED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE STOPPING IN KOREA FOR 3-4 HOURS LATE THURSDAY EVENING (EST) AND WOULD PROBABLY PULL INTO WASHINGTON LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

DEFENSE

1. US AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL -- SPOKESMAN JERRY FRIEDHEIM STATED, QUOTE IN OUR VIEW THE EMERGENCY THAT REQUIRED THE AIRLIFT IS ESSENTIALLY OVER END QUOTE, AND ANNOUNCED THAT TEN RESUPPLY FLIGHTS TOOK OFF FOR ISRAEL YESTERDAY, SIX WERE SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, AND NONE FOR TOMORROW. HE WOULD NOT TIE THE PLANNED CESSATION OF THE AIRLIFT TO A COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN SEALIFT DELIVERIES. ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL WAS UP TO ITS PRE-WAR MATERIAL LEVEL, HE REPLIED THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE LEVEL OF STOCKS IN ISRAEL.

2. MEDITERRANEAN FLEETS -- FRIEDHEIM STATED THAT THE SOVIET FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN STILL NUMBERED IN THE 80'S AND THE SIXTH FLEET AROUND 60.

3. SINGAPORE OIL CUTOFF -- ASKED WHETHER SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT OIL REFINERIES HAD CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO ALL US FORCES, FRIEDHEIM REPLIED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE WHETHER US FORCES HAD ATTEMPTED TO DRAW ANY SUPPLIES FROM THOSE REFINERIES.

WHITE HOUSE

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1. NO FOREIGN AFFAIRS QUESTIONS WERE POSED AT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING TODAY. RUSH

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